a. The attached questions and answers are hereby incorporated into the subject solicitation.

Questions: 66" Gate Valve

QUESTION: Guides: Alloy guides are specified. We are going to be offering a sliding gate valve and the guide material will be reinforced PTFE. If our sliding gate valve is found acceptable will the reinforced PTFE guides be acceptable?

ANS: Guides that are made from PTFE reinforced with fiberglass or other material will not be accepted. Only guides made from the materials listed in the specification will be accepted.

QUESTION: Actuator Fail Position: Specified Fail Closed- This is the only valve in the package that is electrically operated. Failing closed an electric actuator for loss of power is expensive and involves batteries and transformers. Is it really the requirement to make this valve Fail Closed for loss of power?

ANS: Specification Appendix C2, page 40 of 49, "Fail Position" is hereby changed from "Fail Closed" to "Fail in Place".

QUESTION: Actuator-Electric: Due to the unique design of our sliding gate valve, pneumatic actuation is an economical and reliable option and makes failing closed the valve simpler. Would pneumatic actuation be considered as an option?

ANS: No. Electric actuation will be the only actuation method considered.

QUESTION: Proof Testing: The manufacture prefers to hydrostatically test the valve with water at 2 time design pressure for 10 minutes with no leakage allowed. Would that be acceptable in place of the 1.25 times pneumatic proof test?

ANS: Hydrostatically testing the valve to 1.5 times design pressure is all that is required in the specification. Hydrostatically testing the valve to 2 times design pressure is above and beyond the requirements and will be accepted provided that hydrostatic test is conducted BEFORE functionally testing the valve at design pressure.

QUESTION: Two Set of Softgoods: The manufacturer believes that two sets of softgoods is overkill. Is there a specific reason for requiring two sets?

ANS: Yes there is. Please provide two sets of softgoods according to the specification.

Questions: Butterfly Valves:

QUESTION: Seat Material: Kel-F or similar material: Teflon is not listed. Would Teflon be acceptable? For these applications, Teflon will provide a tighter Reverse direction sealing.

ANS: Virgin PTFE (Teflon) seats will be accepted provided that they are not laminated with steel backing rings or other PTFE layers, are retained in the valve in such a manner as to prevent extrusion, are retained in such a manner that the seat is maintained in the valve under flow conditions, and are designed in such a way as to ensure proper and repetitive sealing.

QUESTION: Internal Leak Test: The same acceptable leakage rate is quoted for the preferred sealing direction and the reverse sealing direction. This can be difficult and many industries accept a higher leak rate in the reverse (non-preferred) direction. Would a Class VI leakage in the preferred sealing direction and a Class IV in the reverse be acceptable with Kel-F(PCTFE) seat?

ANS: Unlike with other industries, a higher leak rate in the reverse direction is not acceptable. Please test the valve according to the specification and confirm that the valves can meet stated leakage requirements. Leakage requirements are not arrived at lightly and should be met exactly or exceeded.

QUESTION: Class VI shutoff/sealing can be accomplished with Teflon seats. Will Teflon seats be acceptable?

ANS: This has been discussed above.

QUESTION: Solenoid Valve 350 PSIG rated: This is a fairly high pressure rating for industrial standard valve actuation solenoid valves, does Stennis have a preferred valve actuation solenoid valve that meets this spec.? Can you tell us the manufacturer and model/series of the solenoid valve? Or would a lower rated solenoid valve be acceptable?

ANS: The valves covered by this specification are not industrial standard and therefore have more stringent requirements. The specification should be followed exactly regarding solenoid valves. ASCO is one of many known manufacturers of acceptable solenoid valves.

QUESTION: Two Limit Switches: Most limit switch assemblies/boxes for quarter turn actuators are housed in Aluminum housings. Since aluminum actuators are not allowed are aluminum housed limit switches allowed? If so, is the limit switch manufacturers standard paint/coating acceptable? Is there a preferred Limit Switch manufacturer?

ANS: Limit switches that are housed in aluminum are acceptable as are those with painted housings. GO Switch is a known manufacturer of this type of limit switch, or it could be any other approved equal.

Commercial Question:

QUESTION: Are progress payments allowed for in this procurement?

ANS: Milestone payments are authorized for this procurement. See Solicitation Page 15 of 21, Addendum to Contract Clause 52.212-4 (i)(1).

- b. The date for receipt of proposals remains the same at Nov 27, 2007, 3:00 PM Local Time.
- c. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.